

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

COLLEGE PARK 20742

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL AND LIFE SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY
AREA CODE (301) 454-2848

November 16, 1979

JZ Hoffman \$
any other
congratulations?

Dr. Frederick Seitz
The Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Dr. Seitz:

Thank you for your kind letter of November 8; I am appreciative of the attention you gave to my request for information. I hope you will understand my position: A decade or two ago, a graduate student on seeing a paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science and written or sponsored by an academy member would hesitate to challenge the contents of the paper or its authors or sponsor. Now, this is not the case. It is my belief that students should put forth reasonable challenges to the "experts" when such challenges are felt to be justified. In my judgement, it was the failure to offer reasonable challenges to the "experts" that resulted in the devastating effects that followed the use of inactivated swine-flu vaccine and to the equally devastating, but less well known, results that followed the use of inactivated measles vaccine. To illustrate the latter, I am enclosing copies of a few papers -few of many such reports- describing some of the after effects of use of inactivated measles vaccine -a vaccine declared by the "experts", and reported to the public, to be "safe and effective"; later, it was shown that the "experts" were wrong on both scores -inactivated measles vaccine was neither safe nor effective.

In your kind letter to me -in the third paragraph- you wrote that it "is Dr. McCarty's opinion that the questions you asked are really embedded in the article". That was the point of my letter of July 26, 1979 (written almost 5 months ago): the questions are embedded in the article, but the answers are not.

In the published paper under consideration, the authors wrote repeatedly in the Introduction, in the Materials and Methods section and in the Results section of hyperimmune sera; no information is given to show that the sera referred to as hyperimmune sera were hyperimmune sera; no antibody titers are given; no definition is given for the

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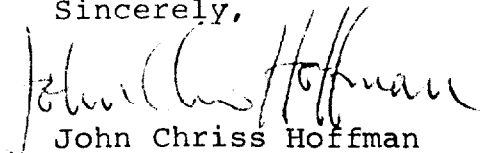
quantitative (amount of antibody) value that the authors assigned the word "hyperimmune". Further, the authors wrote in the Discussion section that:

"In view of the vigorous response to the other viral proteins, the relative lack of antibodies to M in SSPE takes on added significance, because in other conditions in which there is a hyperimmune response to measles virus proteins- i.e., atypical measles following vaccination with inactivated vaccine or vaccination of immune patients- there is a response to M equivalent to that to other proteins".

I would like now to re-request of Dr. Hall, or Dr. Lamb, or Dr. Choppin or Dr. McCarty information first requested in my July 26 letter to Dr. Hall: I will be most appreciative if you would suggest a reference or references in the literature in which you base the above observation that there is a hyperimmune response to measles virus proteins following vaccination of measles immune patients. This time, however, I would like not to limit the information source to a reference or references in the literature, but will welcome any reliable information on which you base the above observation that there is a hyperimmune response to measles virus proteins following vaccination of measles immune patients.

While my quest for information from the Rockefeller University has up to now yielded disappointing results, your kind offer to do the best you can to get the information for me has given to me a ray of hope for an encouraging outcome.

Sincerely,



John Chriss Hoffman
Graduate Student
Department of Microbiology

cc: Dr. Hall
Dr. Lamb
Dr. Choppin
Dr. McCarty
Dr. Lederberg